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Finance committee adds another credit line

\$500K approved after attempt a day earlier to block further borrowing

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Just one day after the Sullivan County Delegation attempted to block any future borrowing in the county, the executive finance committee and the county commissioners approved an additional \$500,000 line of credit for the county treasurer.

"I need more money to get me out of 2006-07 and tide me over into '07-08," Sullivan County treasurer Cynthia

Sweeney told the commission.

Commissioner Jeff Barrette said he was concerned because he thought the original \$2 million line of credit was enough to get the county through the end of the current fiscal year.

"I know we're on the edge," Barrette said. "If there's any way to not get another line of credit by July 1, that's what I want to do."

On Monday, a motion was made by delegate Rep. Ellen Nielsen, D-Claremont, to not approve any further borrowing for the current or

next fiscal year. The motion was never acted upon because Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, walked out of the meeting, leaving the delegation without a quorum.

The commission was reluctant to authorize the additional money because members were under the impression additional money from the state would arrive in time to pay the county's bills.

"If it's (state money) not going to be here by the end of the month, we're not going to meet payroll," Sweeney said. "The money's com-

ing, but so is Christmas."

After the line of credit was approved by the commissioners, Sweeney went before the executive finance committee and asked them to also authorize it.

"It sounds to me like there is a lot of counting chickens before they hatch," finance committee chair Rep. Brenda Ferland, D-Charlestown, said.

Rep. Peter Franklin, D-Newport, told Sweeney that he was told by Sullivan County accountant Jeff Graham that no new money would

need to be borrowed before the end of the fiscal year.

"I don't know where he's getting his numbers," Sweeney said.

After some discussion, the delegation approved the increase in the credit line in a 4-1 vote. Ferland voted "no" and Tom Donovan, D-Claremont, John Cloutier, D-Claremont, Sue Gottling, D-Sunapee, and Larry Converse, D-Claremont, voted "yes."

There was no discussion over the pending motion by Nielsen.